



**Mississippi Arts Commission
Special Initiative
Fast Track Presenters Grant Program
Guidelines for FY2016 (December 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)**

INTRODUCTION

The Fast Track Presenters Grant Program is designed to promote performing arts and aid in the sustenance of artistic activity in Mississippi by providing funding to Mississippi presenters to bring live performances to the state.

The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), in collaboration with the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Alabama State Council on the Arts, has developed a tri-state consortium to promote performing arts in all three states. The consortium is made up of presenters in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama and has been named the Gulf States Presenters Network (GSPN). An objective of the GSPN is to cultivate opportunities to promote artists and venues across the three states.

The Fast Track Presenters Grant Program is a special initiative developed from the GSPN. Fast Track Presenters Grants of up to \$2,000 are available for Mississippi presenters to hire performing artists from Louisiana and Alabama to perform in Mississippi venues. The performing artists must be listed on the Louisiana Division of the Arts Roster or the Alabama Artist Roster. In return, the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Alabama State Council on the Arts will provide grant funding to presenters in their states to hire Mississippi performing artists. Please note that all three states' artist rosters include visual artists, educational outreach, and other disciplines. However, presenters are only eligible for grants to offset the costs of hiring eligible *performing* artists to perform at qualifying events.

Presenters must work directly with the performing artist to arrange booking and contract details prior to submitting a grant application.

WHAT IS A PRESENTER?

The Fast Track Presenters Program is open to presenters. For the purposes of this grant program, a presenter is an individual, organization, or business entity that hires a performing artist to perform before an audience at an event that is open to the public. Arts councils, theatres, festival producers, educational institutions may qualify as a presenter. To qualify the entity must be a 501c3 nonprofit with a DUNS number.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be a presenter, as defined above.
- The presenter/applicant must be located in Mississippi.
- MAC's Fast Track Presenters Grant Program follows the format of the FY2016 Minigrant guidelines with one exception – **no match fund is required.**

WHAT EXPENSES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

The maximum grant amount is \$2,000. No match is required. Grant funds may be used to offset an eligible presenter's cost to hire a performing artist from the Louisiana Artist Roster or Alabama artists recommended by the Alabama State Council on the Arts to perform at a Mississippi event that is open to the public and supports the promotion of such an event. The performance(s) must take place between December 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Each presenter is allowed to submit only one grant application per grant cycle. If approved, the grantee will receive one half of the funds when the signed contract and request for first payment is submitted. The second and final payment will be sent upon receipt of a final report and request for second payment.

DEADLINE

Applications will be accepted October 1, 2015 and the deadline will be the first Monday in November of 2015. Award notifications will be sent during the week of December 1, 2015.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

Applicants are asked to follow the guidelines for the Minigrant to Organizations program which can be found on the MAC website at: <http://www.arts.ms.gov/grants/minigrants.php>. Applicants are strongly urged to apply using the eGrant online application system: <http://www.arts.ms.gov/grants/egrant.php>.

LOUISIANA AND ALABAMA – ARTIST ROSTERS

The Alabama State Council on the Arts Artist Roster can be accessed via the following link:

<http://arts.alabama.gov/PDF/Resources/ALABAMAartists.pdf>

Contact Yvette Jones-Smedley at the Alabama Arts Council with any questions – yvette.jones-medley@arts.alabama.gov or (334) 242.4076.

The Louisiana Division of the Arts Artist Roster can be accessed via the following link:

<http://crt.louisiana.gov/cultural-development/arts/louisiana-artist-roster/index>

Contact Paula White at the Louisiana Division of the Arts with any questions - pwhite@crt.la.gov or (225) 342-8175.

Each application will be reviewed by the MAC program staff and will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Eligibility of applicant
- Verification that the artist selected is on the Alabama or Louisiana Artist Roster
- Viability of project based on the required material submitted by applicant (contract/agreement with artist(s), budget, and brief description of event and what will take place)

FINAL REPORT

A final report must be submitted via mail or email as a PDF file, within 30 days after completion of the event. MAC will not issue the final payment until the Minigrant Final Report is received and approved. The final report must follow the format of the Minigrant program and should include information that shows the following

- Completion of the Minigrant Final Report (if the application was filed using eGrant, the Final Report should also be completed via eGrant)
- Proof of event – playbill, pictures, flyers, newspaper ads, articles or other publicity materials
- Narrative evaluating the following criteria: Goals and outcomes, quality and artistic excellence, public participation and access, and the ability to evaluate and measure success
- Evidence of proper crediting – copy of program and publicity showing acknowledgement of funding, as specified in the grant agreement
- Artist Evaluation
- Request for Second Payment

SUBMISSION

Applications may be submitted via eGrant, U.S. Mail, or hand delivered. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

Applications that are mailed should be sent to:

The Mississippi Arts Commission
501 North West Street
Suite 1101A
Jackson, MS 39201

For additional information contact:

Turry Flucker, (601) 359-6075, tflucker@arts.ms.gov